

REMARKS

In response to Examiner's objection, grammar of Claim 18 is corrected; additionally, grammar of Claims 5 and 7 is corrected.

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The Examiner rejected Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 19 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. 102 (b) as being anticipated by Levergood et al. (US Patent 5,708,780). Levergood et al. describe internet server access control and monitoring systems.

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Applicants submit that the present invention is distinguishable over Levergood et al., in significant part, because Applicants' invention as described in independent Claims 1, 9, and 19 (and therefore in such claims which depend thereon,) is directed specifically at adaptive direct transaction for networked client group.

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In particular, the following distinctions are introduced herein to specify more clearly Applicants' invention. Support therefor appears variously in the Specification on: page 2, lines 15-23; page 6, lines 1-11; page 9, lines 5-8; page 18, lines 5-14; and page 21, lines 10-13.

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Claim 1: ... the message is directed adaptively or dynamically according to the attributes of a plurality of clients classified in the set, the classification being contextually mapped with the directed message by comparing attributes to classify each client in the set, the set classification being identified in a group registry.

Claim 9: ... the network signal being directed adaptively or dynamically according to a plurality of generated sensor signals associated with the classified set, the classification being contextually mapped with the network signals and identified in a group registry.

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Claim 19: ... the message signal being directed adaptively or dynamically according to a plurality of attribute signals associated with the classified set, the classification being contextually mapped with the attribute signals and identified in a group registry.

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In comparison to Applicants' invention, Levergood et al. (claim 8, column 115 lines 33-35) refer merely to maintaining a "database relating customer information to access patterns," without describing adaptive direct transaction for networked client group. Additionally, as Examiner expressly states (11/19/99 Office Action, page 3, lines 15-16,) Levergood et al. describe client-server system wherein "multiple clients ... connected to a server ... are interchangeable."

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Applicants describe invention wherein a **message or equivalent network signal is directed adaptively or dynamically according to certain attribute signals associated with a classified set, which classification is contextually mapped with such attribute signals, and further identified in a group registry.** Hence, in Applicants' approach, clients are not necessarily interchangeable for purpose of directing signals thereto, but rather clients associated with classified set as contextually mapped and identified in group registry may receive directed signals.

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Generally, Applicants' invention is directed at enabling adaptive direct transaction for networked client group, i.e., such that a message signal is directed to multiple clients belonging to a classified set in an adaptive or dynamic manner according to attribute signals of the clients in the classified set. Furthermore, the set classification is contextually mapped with such attribute
5 signals, and identified in a group registry.

Because Levergood et al. neither disclose nor suggest such approach as specified in Applicants' amended claims, Applicants submit that Examiner's 102(b) rejection of Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 19, and 20 are overcome, and respectfully, should now be withdrawn.
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The Examiner rejected Claims 9-14 under 35 U.S.C. 102 (b) as being anticipated by Hoffberg et al. (US Patent 5,774,357). Hoffberg et al. describe human factored interface incorporating adaptive pattern recognition based controller apparatus.

15 Similarly, Applicants submit that present invention is distinguishable over Hoffberg et al., in significant part, because Applicants' invention as described in independent Claim 9 (and therefore in such claims which depend thereon,) is directed specifically at adaptive direct transaction for networked client group.

20 In comparison to Applicants' invention, Hoffberg et al. (claim 6, column 95, lines 64-66) refer merely to "detector for detecting one or more temporal-spatial user characteristics of the input signal....," without describing adaptive direct transaction for networked client group. Applicants describe invention wherein a message or equivalent network signal is directed adaptively or dynamically according to certain attribute signals associated with a classified set, which

classification is contextually mapped with such attribute signals, and further identified in a group registry.

5 Distinguishably, Applicants' invention is directed at enabling adaptive direct transaction for networked client group, i.e., such that a message signal is directed to multiple clients belonging to a classified set in an adaptive or dynamic manner according to attribute signals of the clients in the classified set. Furthermore, the set classification is contextually mapped with such attribute signals, and identified in a group registry.

10 Because Hoffberg et al. neither disclose nor suggest such approach as specified in Applicants' amended claims, Applicants submit that Examiner's 102(b) rejection of Claims 9-14 are overcome, and respectfully, should now be withdrawn.

15 The Examiner rejected Claims 3 and 16-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Levergood et al. (US Patent 5,708,780) in further view of Hoffberg et al. (US Patent 5,774,357). Levergood et al. describe internet server access control and monitoring systems. Hoffberg et al. describe human factored interface incorporating adaptive pattern recognition based controller apparatus.

20 Applicants submit that the present invention is distinguishable over Levergood et al. and Hoffberg et al., singly or in combination, in significant part, because Applicants' invention as described in independent Claims 1 and 9 (and therefore in such claims which depend thereon, including Claims 3, and 16-17,) is directed specifically at adaptive direct transaction for networked client group.

In comparison to Applicants' invention, as discussed herein, neither Hoffberg et al. nor Levergood et al., either singly or in combination, describe adaptive direct transaction for networked client group, particularly wherein a message or equivalent network signal is directed adaptively or dynamically according to certain attribute signals associated with a classified set, which
5 classification is contextually mapped with such attribute signals, and further identified in a group registry.

Applicants respectfully submit, per MPEP 706.02 (j), second paragraph, that "to establish a prima facie case of obviousness . . . the prior art reference (or references when combined) must
10 teach or suggest all the claim limitations" (emphasis added). Furthermore, in Northern Telecom Inc. v. Datapoint Corp., 908 F.2d 931, 934, 15 USPQ2d 1321, 1323 (Fed. Cir.), cert. denied, 498 US 920, 111 S.Ct. 296, 112 L.Ed.2d 250 (1990), the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit stated that when the patented invention is made by combining known components to achieve a new system, the prior art must provide a suggestion or motivation to make such a combination.

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Because neither Levergood et al. nor Hoffberg et al., either singly or in combination, disclose or suggest Applicants' claimed invention, Applicants submit that Examiner's 103 rejection of Claims 3, and 16-17 are overcome, and respectfully, should now be withdrawn.

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The Examiner rejected Claims 15 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Hoffberg et al. (US Patent 5,774,357). Hoffberg et al. describe human factored interface incorporating adaptive pattern recognition based controller apparatus.

Applicants submit that the present invention is distinguishable over Hoffberg et al., in
25 significant part, because Applicants' invention as described in independent Claim 9 (and therefore

in such claims which depend thereon, including Claims 15 and 18,) is directed specifically at
adaptive direct transaction for networked client group.

In comparison to Applicants' invention, as discussed herein, Hoffberg et al. neither
5 describe nor suggest adaptive direct transaction for networked client group, particularly wherein a
message or equivalent network signal is directed adaptively or dynamically according to
certain attribute signals associated with a classified set, which classification is contextually
mapped with such attribute signals, and further identified in a group registry.

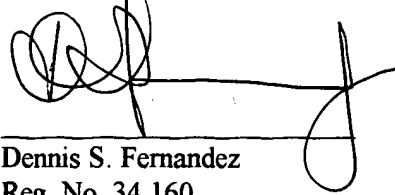
10 As mentioned herein, Applicants respectfully submit, per MPEP 706.02 (j), second
paragraph, that "to establish a prima facie case of obviousness . . . the prior art reference (or
references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations" (emphasis added).
Furthermore, in Northern Telecom Inc. v. Datapoint Corp., 908 F.2d 931, 934, 15 USPQ2d 1321,
1323 (Fed. Cir.), cert. denied, 498 US 920, 111 S.Ct. 296, 112 L.Ed.2d 250 (1990), the Court of
15 Appeals for the Federal Circuit stated that when the patented invention is made by combining
known components to achieve a new system, the prior art must provide a suggestion or motivation
to make such a combination.

Because Hoffberg et al. neither disclose nor suggest Applicants' claimed invention,
20 Applicants submit that Examiner's 103 rejection of Claims 15 and 18 are overcome, and
respectfully, should now be withdrawn.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted by Applicants that the claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the rejections is requested. Allowance of the claims at an early date is solicited. Formal drawings will be submitted by Applicants upon indication of allowed claims. Petition for Extension of Time is included herewith.

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Respectfully submitted,



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